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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

) Date: January 31, 2005

Ronald P. Sansone

) Attorney Docket No.: E-984

Serial No.: 09/817,998

) Customer No.: 00919

Filed: March 27, 2001

) Group Art Unit: 3629

Confirmation No.: 2015

) Examiner: Igor N. Borissov

Title: **MESSAGING SERVICES FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF (PATENT APPLICATION 37 CFR 1.192)

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

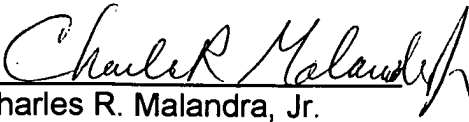
Transmitted herewith in **triplicate** is the **APPEAL BRIEF** in the above-identified patent application with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on November 30, 2004.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17(c), the fee for filing the Appeal Brief is \$500.00. Please charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$500.00 to cover the above fees.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. **16-1885**.

A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed for use in charging the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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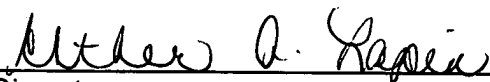
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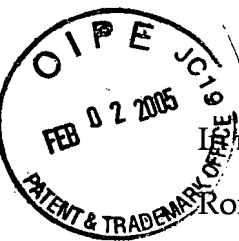
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on January 31, 2005
Date of Deposit

Esther A. Lapin
Name of Rep.


Signature

January 31, 2005
Date



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) Examiner: Igor N. Borissov

TITLE: MESSAGING SERVICES FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

APPELLANT'S BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief – Patents

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal filed in this case on November 30, 2004.

This Brief is transmitted in triplicate.

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Esther A. Lapin

Name of Rep.

January 31, 2005

Date

TABLE OF CONTENTS

This Brief contains these items under the following headings and in the order set forth below:

- I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST
- II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES
- III. STATUS OF CLAIMS
- IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS
- V. SUMMARY OF INVENTION
- VI. ISSUES
- VII. GROUPING OF CLAIMS
- VIII. ARGUMENT
- IX. PRAYER FOR RELIEF
- APPENDIX A CLAIMS IN THE APPEAL

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

Pitney Bowes Inc. is the real party in interest by way of assignment from the Appellant.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

A. An Appeal to the USPTO Board of Appeals has been filed in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/818,480 entitled "Recipient Elected Messaging Services For Mail That Is Transported In Trays Or Tubs" may directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this Appeal.

B. An Appeal to the USPTO Board of Appeals has been filed in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/818,792 entitled "Recipient Elected Messaging Services" may directly affect or be directed affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this Appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

A. Claims 1-12 and 15-27 are in the application.

B. Claims 1-12 and 15-27 are rejected.

C. Claims 1-12 and 15-27 are on appeal.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

An Amendment subsequent to the September 1, 2004, Final Office Action was filed on November 10, 2004. This Amendment was entered.

V. SUMMARY OF INVENTION

A. BACKGROUND

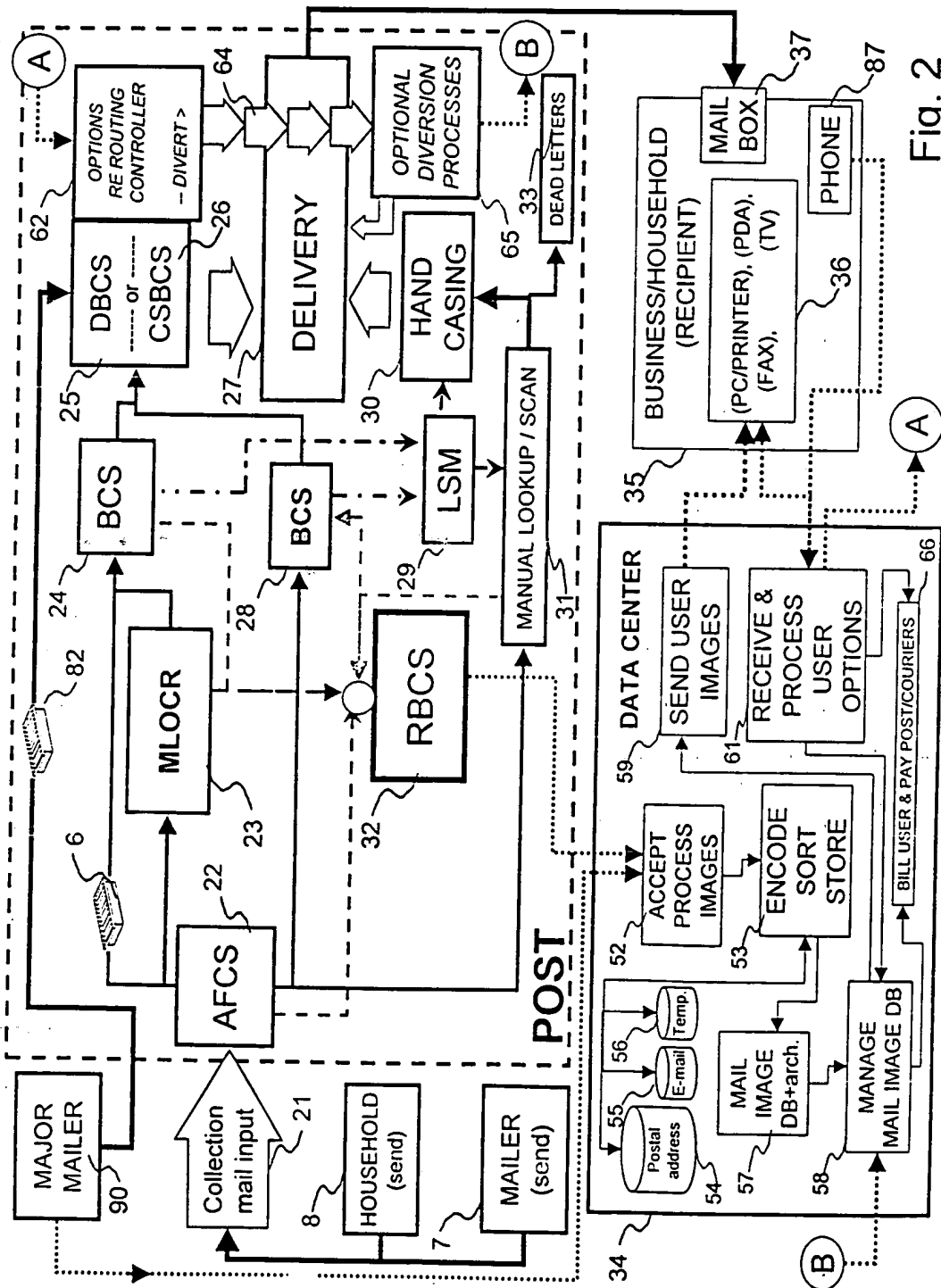
Ever since the numeric codification of streets and buildings received general acceptance, an individual's name and household postal addresses have been linked. The sender of a letter or package would deliver a letter or package to the post that had

the correct recipient postal address, and the post would deliver the letter or package to the numeric street address of the recipient of the letter or package. A correct recipient postal address for the delivery of the letter or package to the recipient included the name of the recipient, the street address of the recipient, the city and state of the recipient, and the zip code of the recipient. Thus, the correct recipient postal address is usually the actual location of the recipient.

Typically, it takes the post three to five days to deliver letters and/or packages to a recipient. Sometimes, recipients of letters and packages like to know what letters and packages they are going to receive before they receive them. For instance, if someone is going on a trip, they may want to receive their bills, i.e., credit card, electric, gas, oil, hospital, doctor, etc., before they leave on the trip so that they may pay the bills before a finance charge for late payment is applied to their account. Someone may also want to receive a package before they go on a trip so that they may take the contents of the package on the trip. The recipient may also want to delay delivery of a particular letter or package until they return from their trip. The reason for the foregoing may be that the recipient does not want to retrieve the letter or package at the post office or have the letter or package waiting at a vacant house.

B. APPELLANT'S CLAIMED INVENTION

1. Claim 1, the only independent claim in this patent application, relates to a method that enables a recipient to inform a carrier of the manner in which the recipient wants mail delivered. More particularly, claim 1 includes the following steps: depositing with the carrier mail containing the recipient's name and physical address and the sender's name and address; capturing the name and physical address of the recipient and the sender in the form of an image; transmitting the image to a data center where the image is processed by translating the image consisting of text and graphics to alphanumeric; translating the name and physical address of the recipient into a



telephone number; utilizing the telephone number of the recipient and the translated image alphanumerics to inform the recipient of the expected delivery of the deposited mail via a tactile communication device; notifying the carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered; delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier; and charging the recipient for delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

Appellant's invention is a method that enables a recipient who may be visually impaired to receive notification of the letters and/or packages (mail) that the recipient is going to receive prior to the delivery of the mail. The recipient is then able to inform a carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered. For instance, the recipient may want the mail physically delivered to recipient's house faster or slower, or the mail physically redirected to the recipient's temporary address, or physically delivered to the recipient's agent, or physically delivered to the recipient's attorney, or physically returned to the mailer, or have the carrier open the physical mail and have the carrier e-mail or fax the contents of the letter to the recipient and/or parties designated by the recipient.

Appellant's claimed invention is shown in Fig. 2 and described in line 7 of page 5 to line 19 of page 9 of Appellant's Patent Application. A copy of Fig. 2 appears next to this page.

Fig. 2 is a drawing showing how this invention may be used by a post in the processing of letters. Letter mail that is deposited in trays 6 and delivered to the post is read by multiple optical character reader (hereinafter "MLOCR") 23. Collection letter mail may be metered letter mail that is produced at a major mailer site 7 or a sender household 8 by a postage meter or a personal computer meter, stamped mail, or, permit mail. Collection letter mail is placed in collection mail input 21, i.e., mail boxes or delivered unsorted to the United States Postal Service. Collection letter mail is sent to

AFCS 22. AFCS 22 first faces the letter mail. Then AFCS 22 electronically identifies and separates prebarcoded mail, handwritten addresses and machine-imprinted address pieces for faster processing through automation. Letter mail that AFCS 22 determines is optical character readable is sent to MLOCR 23. Reader 23 reads the entire address on the letter mail, sprays a bar code on the mail, and then sorts the mail. Letter mail that is able to be scanned and sorted by reader 23 is sent to bar code sorter/code printer (hereinafter "BCS") 24. Letter mail that the mailer has prebarcoded and contains a facing identification mark is sent to bar code sorter/ code printer 24.

Trayed mail 82 (mail in which the sender is entitled to discounts) that is produced at a major mailer site 90 (Fig. 5) is sent to a delivery bar code sorter/code printer (hereinafter "DBCS") 25 or a carrier sequence bar code sorter/code printer (hereinafter "CSBCS") 26. Sorters 25 and 26 sort the letter mail in the order that the mail is going to be delivered by postal carrier 27. Letter mail that AFCS 22 determines is not optical character readable is sent to bar code sorter/code printer (hereinafter "BCS") 28. Letter mail that AFCS 22 obtains electronic images from and letter mail that reader 23 obtains electronic images from will be sent to remote bar code system 32. Bar code system 32 matches the look up zip code for the letter mailpieces from AFCS 22 and merges them. System 32 electronically transmits the bar code information to BCS 28 where the bar code information is sprayed on the mailpieces. Letter mail that is able to be scanned and sorted by sorters 24 and 28 is sent to a delivery bar code sorter 25. Sorters 25 and 26 sort the letter mail in the order that the mail is going to be delivered by postal carrier 27, or hold the mail for recipient diversion for a specified period of time in divert mail options rerouting controller 62.

Letter mail that can not be scanned and sorted by sorters 24 and 28 is sent to letter sort machine 29. Letter mail that can be sorted by letter sort machine 29 is sent to postal hand casing 30. Postal hand casing 30 is the process in which the postal carrier

sorts the letter mail in the order that the letter mail is going to be delivered by postal carrier 27. Letter mail that can not be sorted by letter sort machine 29 is sent to manual process 31. Manual process 31 attempts to classify the previously rejected mailpiece to redirect the mailpiece; declare the mailpiece dead; or manually re-code the mailpiece for redelivery. Then the mailpieces that have not been processed in manual lookup sortation process 31 are sent to dead letters 33. In process 31, an operator may determine the address of the recipient and produce a label to be placed on the letter mail. Then the letter mail would go to postal hold casing 30 where the mail is sorted in the order that the mail is going to be delivered by postal carrier 27.

Letter mail that can not be faced and cancelled by AFCS 22 is sent to manual process 31. Manual process 31 attempts to classify the previously rejected letter mailpiece to redirect the mailpiece; declare the mailpiece dead; or manually re-code the mailpiece for redelivery. Then the letter mail that manual process 31 is able to classify is sent to postal carrier casing 30 before it is delivered by postal carrier 27.

RBCS 32 electronically transmits the bar code information that represents the destination of the letter mailpiece and the party to whom the mailpiece is to be delivered and the image of the face of the mailpiece to data center 34. The aforementioned scanners scan all of the information appearing on the face of the letter, i.e., the sender's name and address 12 (Fig. 1A), the recipient's name and address 13, and postal indicia 14. The scanned information is transferred to accept process images 52. Then the information is sent to encode, sort, store 53. At this point, the recipient's physical address is verified by checking postal address data base 54, and the recipient's e-mail address is determined from e-mail data base 55, and the recipient's telephone number and/or tactile communication device phone number are determined from voice data base 104. Temporary data base 56 is then searched to determine whether or not the

recipient has left any forwarding addresses. Encode 53 then encodes and sorts the information obtained from data bases 54, 55 and 56.

The aforementioned encoded and sorted information is stored in mail image data base 57. Then the mail image information is sent to manage mail image 58 where the various options and the costs associated therewith that the recipient may have for delivering the information contained in the letter are determined. Then the mail images and options that the recipient has for receiving the mail are sent to speech conversion process 89, where the information appearing on the face of the mail and the options the recipient has for receiving the mail are converted to speech. The speech is transmitted to telephone 87 and/or tactile communications device 88, which is located at the recipient's business or household 35.

The recipient may use telephone 87 and/or tactile communications device 88, located at the recipient's business or household 35 to inform receive and process recipient options 61, located at data center 34, of the manner in which the mail should be delivered. For instance, the recipient may want the mail physically delivered to the recipient's house faster or slower, or the mail physically redirected to the recipient's temporary address, or physically delivered to the recipient's agent, or physically delivered to the recipient's attorney, or physically returned to the mailer, or have the post open the mail and have the post e-mail or fax the contents of the mail to the recipient and/or parties designated by the recipient, or have the post open the mail and pay the invoice or bill in the mail with monies in an account established by the recipient or charge the invoice or bill to the recipient's credit card.

At this juncture, the recipient may inform options 61 via a device 36 of the manner in which the recipient would like the mailpiece processed. Options 61 will then inform the recipient via device 36 of the cost to the recipient to process the mailpiece in the manner selected by the recipient. The recipient may then inform the post to deliver

the mailpiece in the manner selected by the recipient. The recipient's selected manner of mailpiece processing is forwarded to options rerouting controller 62. If the post specified time to deliver the mailpiece has not been reached, the mailpiece is sent to recipient options 64 and delivered in the manner selected by the recipient in route mail options 65. Then options 65 informs manage mail data base 58 to archive the image and also to notify bill sender and pay carriers 66 to bill the recipient and pay the post. At this point the next mailpiece image is ready to be processed.

The mailpiece may then be delivered to the recipient at mail box 37 at a faster or slower rate than that selected by the sender; held by the post for a specified amount of time and then delivered to an address specified by the recipient; opened, and the contents of the mailpiece faxed to recipient's selected fax numbers; opened, and the contents of the mailpiece faxed to recipient's selected fax numbers, and then the mailpiece may be delivered to the physical address specified by the recipient; opened, and the contents of the mailpiece e-mailed to recipient's selected e-mail addresses; or opened, and the contents of the mailpiece e-mailed to recipient's selected e-mail addresses, and then the mailpiece may be delivered to the physical address specified by the recipient. The recipient may also have instructed the post to return the mail to the sender, to destroy the mail, or to recycle the paper in the mailpiece. Options 61 will also send the cost of the recipient's selected manner of delivery to bill recipient 66 so that data center 34 may inform the post to debit the recipient's account or send a bill to the recipient.

2A. Claim 12 depends on claim 1, and relates to the recipient notifying the carrier to destroy the mail. The above feature of Appellant's claimed invention is described on page 3, lines 5-8 of Appellant's Patent Application, which read as follows: "This invention overcomes the disadvantages of the prior art by providing a method that enables a recipient who may be visually impaired to receive notification of the

letters and/or packages (mail) that the recipient is going to receive prior to the delivery of the mail".

2B. Claim 17 depends on claim 1 and relates to the recipient notifying the carrier to destroy the mail. The above feature of Appellant's claimed invention is described on page 9, lines 15-16 of Appellant's Patent Application, which read as follows: "The recipient may also have instructed the post to return the mail to the sender, to destroy the mail, or to recycle the paper in the mailpiece".

2C. Claim 18 depends on claim 1 and relates to the recipient notifying the carrier to recycle the material comprising the mail. The above feature of Appellant's claimed invention is described on page 9, lines 15-16 of Appellant's Patent Application, which read as follows: "The recipient may also have instructed the post to return the mail to the sender, to destroy the mail, or to recycle the paper in the mailpiece".

2D. Claim 22 depends on claim 1 and relates to the recipient being notified via television of the availability of the deposited mail. The above feature of Appellant's claimed invention is shown in Fig. 2 and described on page 8, lines 18-19 of Appellant's Patent Application, which read as follows: "At this juncture, the recipient may inform options 61 via a device 36 of the manner in which the recipient would like the mailpiece processed".

VI. ISSUES

A. Whether claims 1-11, 15-16, 19-21, and 23-25 are patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over Kuebert, et al. (U.S. 2002/0165729) in view of Lynt, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,636,038), and further in view of Srinivasan (U.S. Patent No. 6,072,862).

B. Whether claim 12 is patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over Kuebert, et al. Lynt, et al., and Srinivasan in view of Sherwood, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,584).

C. Whether claim 17 is patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over Kuebert, et al., Lynt, et al., and Srinivasan in view of McKeen, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 4,037,956).

D. Whether claim 18 is patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over Kuebert, et al., Lynt, et al., and Srinivasan in view of Gordon, et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,289,323.)

E. Whether claim 22 is patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over Kuebert, et al., Lynt, et al., and Srinivasan in view of Busch, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,390,921).

VII. GROUPING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 and 15-27 are grouped together and stand and fall together.

VIII. ARGUMENT

A. Claims 1-11, 15-16, 19-21, and 23-25 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Kuebert, et al. (U.S. 2002/0165729) in view of Lynt, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,636,038) and further in view of Srinivasan (U.S. Patent No. 6,072,862).

Kuebert, et al. discloses the following in his abstract:

"The principles of the present invention provide the ability to flexibly change the delivery point and time for a mail item, while the item is en route. The recipient, sender, or mailer may flexibly change the delivery point of the item alone or in combination with each other. While an item is en route between the sending point and the delivery point, a notification is sent to indicate that the item is in transit. In response, the delivery of the item may be changed. For example, the destination specified by the sender (e.g., the delivery address written on the item) may be changed or a delivery time may be specified. The item is then delivered to the new delivery point and/or at the specified delivery time."

Lynt discloses the following in lines 15-26 of column 6:

"Another application of the device could be as a hand-held text to Braille reader. The imaging portion would be scanned over printed document and the processing means would cause Braille representations of the scanned text to be produced on the tactile display for sensing by the user.

If the imaging means is replaced or augmented with a listening device, i.e., a microphone, and the processing means includes speech analysis operations, the tactile display could be caused to output Braille characters, or another representation, corresponding to detected speech. The device could be adapted to connect to a telephone so that tactile representations of speech received through the telephone are produced."

When Lynt images something, he directly converts that image to Braille to be produced on the Tactile display for sensing by the user.

Srinivasan discloses the following in lines 36-61 of column 2:

"To do so, the present invention provides a sender with a single subscriber number to call in order to send or leave a message. Both the sender and a subscribe may select their preferred medium of communication. If the two are different, the present invention provides the necessary conversion. In addition, the present invention can notify a subscriber when a message has been received via the subscriber's preferred "message waiting" notification mechanism. Finally, messages can be stored, routed, or communicated to other subscribers. In such a fashion, the present invention provides for sending and receiving messages anywhere, at any time, in any form.

More particularly, the present invention provides a method and system whereby a subscriber may automatically and in a predetermined fashion direct the routing of messages having any of a number of different media formats including, but not limited to, facsimile, pages, voice mail, electronic mail (e-mail),

video mail, and other types of media. Messages may be routed to a variety of different types of destinations also including, but not limited to, facsimile machines, pager systems, voice mail systems, e-mail systems, video mail systems, and others. Specific destinations are preselected before receipt of the messages depending upon various subscriber designated parameters such as the type of message, date, and time of day."

Srinivasan discloses the routing of messages from facsimile machines, pager systems, voice mail, and e-mail. Srinivasan's invention is not applicable to letters and/or packages.

Kuebert, Lynt or Srinivasan, taken separately or together, do not disclose or anticipate the invention claimed by Appellant in claim 1 and those claims dependent thereon. The cited patents do not disclose or anticipate the step of charging the recipient for delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier. Mail is defined on line 7 of page 3 of Appellant's specification to be letters and/or packages. In the delivery of mail, a sender pays the carrier for delivering mail to a recipient. Recipients are not charged for the delivery of mail (letters and/or packages) that has sufficient postage. The recipient is charged only for mail that has insufficient postage. In the method claimed by Appellant, the recipient is charged for delivery mail (letters and/or packages) by the carrier in the manner specified by the recipient. The cited patents also do not disclose or anticipate the step of utilizing the telephone number of the recipient and the translated image alphanumerics to inform the recipient of the expected delivery of the deposited mail via a tactile communication device. They do not convert an address field into a telephone number, and then use the translated image information and the tactile converter to notify the recipient of the deposited mail.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in rejecting a claim under 35 USC §103, the Examiner is charged with the initial burden for providing a factual basis to support the

obviousness conclusion. *In re Warner*, 379 F.2d 1011, 154 USPQ 173 (CCPA 1967); *in re Lunsford*, 375 F.2d 385, 148 USPQ 721 (CCPA 1966); *in re Freed*, 425 F.2d 785, 165 USPQ 570 (CCPA 1970). The Examiner is also required to explain how and why one having ordinary skill in the art would have been led to modify an applied reference and/or combine applied references to arrive at the claimed invention. *In re Ochiai*, 37 USPQ 2d 1127 (Fed. Cir. 1995); *in re Deuel*, 51 F.3d, 1552, 34 USPQ 1210 (Fed. Cir. 1995); *in re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 23 USPQ 1780 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *Uniroyal, Inc. v. Rudkin-Wiley Corp.*, 837 F.2d 1044, 5 USPQ2d 1434 (Fed. Cir. 1988). In establishing the requisite motivation, it has been consistently held that both the suggestion and reasonable expectation of success must stem from the prior art itself, as a whole. *In re Ochiai, supra*; *in re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *in re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *in re Dow Chemical Co.*, 837 F.2d 469, 5 USPQ2d 1529 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

B. Claim 12 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Kuebert, et al.; Lynt, et al.; and Srinivasan in view of Sherwood, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,584).

Claim 12 depends on claim 1, and includes the added step of: charging the recipient for receiving notification of the availability of the deposited mail.

Sherwood discloses the following in column 1, lines 10-24:

"In most telephone systems with voice mail capability, when a voice mail message is left, the phone system attempts to notify the user. This is frequently done by lighting a light on the user's phone, by sounding a tone when the user picks up the phone or by sending a notification by a radio pager. In the case of radio paging, if the message is not retrieved, then the message is sent by radio pager again. This will happen a fixed number of times such as 5 times. If the message is not retrieved, no other action is taken, and the caller does not receive a response to their message. In some lesser phone voice mail systems, such as the voice mail offered by

GTE, radio paging of the arrival of voice mail messages is available in business service for an extra fee, but there is no notification by a light on the phone or by a tone on the phone when the phone is picked up."

Sherwood discloses a system in which the arrival of voice mail messages is available in business services for an extra fee. Kuebert, et al., Lynt, et al., Srinivasan and Sherwood do not disclose or anticipate a method in which a recipient is charged for receiving notification of the availability of deposited mail (letters and/or packages).

C. Claim 17 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Kuebert, et al., Lynt, et al., and Srinivasan in view of McKeen, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 4,037,956).

McKeen discloses the following in lines 28-35 of column 2:

"A postal customer can pay a set fee for the time period he wishes to have the verified mail contents stored and verified documents whose storage time has expired can be destroyed. In one embodiment, the postal customer can have the option of being notified prior to the date when his verified documents are scheduled to be destroyed so that he may extend the storage time if he wishes."

McKeen discloses a system in which the sender pays a set fee for the time period he wishes to have the contents of verified mail stored. The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate a method in which the recipient notifies the carrier to destroy the mail (letter and/or packages).

D. Claim 18 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Kuebert, et al., Lynt, et al., and Srinivasan in view of Gordon, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,323).

Claim 18 depends on claim 1, and claim 18 has the recipient notifying the carrier to recycle the material comprising the mail.

Gordon discloses the following in lines 59-66 of column 15:

"Rather than return the postcards immediately to the vendor 700, the postal authority 702 during stage 5 stores the postcard in a central location. During stage 6 the postcard, as well as all postcards for the vendor 700 are returned to the vendor 700. Alternatively, the postcards are discarded or recycled and the postal authority 700 provides images of the postcards via email or by some other compact media such as microfilm or reduced copies copied in sets on single sheets of paper."

Gordon's post cards may be discarded or recycled before they are returned to the vendor. The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate the recipient notifying the carrier to recycle the material comprising the mail (letter and/or packages).

E. Claim 22 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Kuebert, et al., Lynt, et al., and Srinivasan in view of Busch, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,390,921).

Busch discloses the following in lines 38-44 of column 4:

"The system will also notify via email at least five other subsets of winners (for example (if they may have winning pieces when said players are matched with others in the event the first winners fail to produce said winning pieces. It will be appreciated that the notification may be achieved by numerous alternative methods, such as Web-TV, satellite or wireless communication, telephone, regular mail delivery, etc."

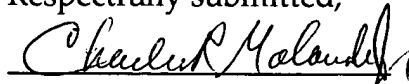
The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate notifying a recipient of mail via television of the availability of the deposited mail (letter and/or package).

Serial No.: 09/817,998
Attorney Docket No.: E-984
Appellant's Brief: January 31, 2005

IX. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Appellant respectfully submits that appealed claims 1-12 and 15-27 in this Application are patentable. It is requested that the Board of Appeal overrule the Examiner and direct allowance of the rejected claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX A – CLAIMS IN THE APPEAL

1. A method that enables a recipient to inform a carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered, said method comprises the steps of:

depositing with the carrier mail containing the recipient's name and physical address and the sender's name and address;

capturing the name and physical address of the recipient and the sender in the form of an image;

transmitting the image to a data center where the image is processed by translating the image consisting of text and graphics to alphanumerics;

translating the name and physical address of the recipient into a telephone number;

utilizing the telephone number of the recipient and the translated image alphanumerics to inform the recipient of the expected delivery of the deposited mail via a tactile communication device;

notifying the carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered;

delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier; and

charging the recipient for delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

2. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to a specified name and address.

3. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to return the mail to the sender.

4. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to open the mail.

5. The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:
informing the carrier to e-mail the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient; and
mailing by e-mail the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient.

6. The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:
informing the carrier to e-mail the contents of the mailpiece to one or more specified e-mail addresses; and
mailing by e-mail the contents of the mailpiece to the specified e-mail addresses.

7. The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:
informing the carrier to send by facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient; and
mailing by facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient.

8. The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:
informing the carrier to facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to one or more specified facsimile numbers; and

sending by facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to the specified facsimile numbers.

9. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient at a different address.

10. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a slower delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

11. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a faster delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

12. The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
charging the recipient for receiving notification of the availability of the deposited mail.

15. The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
informing the sender of the delivery of the mail.

16. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to hold the mail for a specified period of time.

17. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to destroy the mail.

18. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to recycle the material comprising the mail.

19. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via e-mail of the availability of the deposited mail.

20. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via telephone of the availability of the deposited mail.

21. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via facsimile of the availability of the deposited mail.

22. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via television of the availability of the deposited mail.

23. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is notified via e-mail of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered.

24. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is notified via facsimile of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered.

25. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is notified via telephone of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered.

26. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies a data center who notifies the carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered.

27. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is visually impaired.